

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: B/C Patrick Ferguson  
(614) 645-7859

**Columbus Division of Fire Provides Severe Storm Safety Tips**

[Columbus – OH] As the threat of severe weather looms, the Columbus Division of Fire provides residents with safety tips for extreme weather events.

- Seek shelter in a building or vehicle and keep the windows closed.
- Avoid using electrical equipment/appliances, and preferably, unplug things such as televisions, air conditioners and computers. Electrical lines are excellent conductors of electricity. However, leaving the lights on will not increase the chances of a home being struck by lightning.
- Close blinds and shades as a precaution to prevent windows shattering into your home.
- Use flashlights during power outages instead of candles (potential fire hazard). If candles are used, consider the flameless battery-operated option.
- Place traditional candles on a stable surface away from combustible items. Extinguish the flame when leaving the room or before going to sleep.
- Never use a generator in an enclosed space, even if the windows and doors are open. Carbon monoxide can accumulate and linger for hours.
- Don't drive unless it is absolutely necessary. Stay away from flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Avoid downed power lines. If a power line falls on the car, stay put and dial 911.

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Administration Bureau  
Emergency Services Bureau  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
Support Services Bureau  
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3675 Parsons Avenue	Columbus OH 43207	T (614) 645.6017	F (614) 645.3040
3639 Parsons Avenue	Columbus OH 43207	T (614) 645.4128	F (614) 645.4204
3639 Parsons Avenue	Columbus OH 43207	T (614) 645.7641	F (614) 645.4245
3639 Parsons Avenue	Columbus OH 43207	T (614) 645.6385	F (614) 645.0110
3639 Parsons Avenue	Columbus OH 43207	T (614) 645.6360	F (614) 645.3214

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